

**TRES 6138
JRES 6138**

**QUALIFYING EXAMINATION
DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY
AND
DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE**

Russian and East European Studies

THE CULTURE OF RUSSIA AND EAST EUROPE

TRINITY TERM 2007

Wednesday 13 June, 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Please start the answer to each question on a separate sheet.

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions in total,
from **AT LEAST TWO** of the three groups (I, II, III).

Do **not** turn over until told that you may do so.

I

1. To what extent does contemporary Polish cinema continue traditions from the Communist period? Discuss with reference to at least TWO films you have seen.
2. Polish prose over the last twenty years 'seeks above all to create forms with all capacity to include autobiographical ruminations and ostentatious inventiveness...' (Premyslaw Czaplinski). Discuss.
3. Discuss the literary use of reference to EITHER (a) Czech history OR (b) contemporary Czech society in one or two post-1945 Czech novels or essays.
4. Discuss the social role of an artist or a poet as portrayed in any one or two post-1968 Russian novels

II.

5. Is there a difference between the narrative structure of fiction and the narrative structure of historiography?
6. With reference to any ONE memoir from Russia or Eastern Europe, assess the contribution made by personal testimony to our understanding of the historical record.
7. 'All written texts can perfectly well be described as "fictions".' Discuss this view with reference to AT LEAST TWO presumably non-fictional texts that you have studied this year.
8. Assess the ideological significance of EITHER (a) any one or more public monuments erected OR (b) national celebrations established in Russia or Eastern Europe after the collapse of communism.

III

9. 'Socialist Realism is not a system of literary-political controls but a creative method whereby the fundamental myths of Soviet society are celebrated and evolve'. Discuss.
10. 'The purpose of art, including literature, is not to reflect life, but to organize and construct it (there exists a lesser form of art for reflecting life, and that is photography)' (E. ZAMIATIN, "Our Purpose", 1926). Consider the ways in which writers of the period, including Zamiatin, fulfilled his precept.

TRES 6138
JRES 6138

11. Compare the reactions to persecution of any of the TWO following groups of believers: Baptists, Catholics, Orthodox in the period 1959-85. Consider how they took advantage of Gorbachev's new policies.
12. Discuss similarities and differences in the imposition of anti-religious policies during their early development (1945-59) in any TWO countries of the Soviet bloc (excluding the Soviet Union).

TRES 6138
JRES 6138

Last page